



DR. THERESA DEFRANCO
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Margate City School District

8103 WINCHESTER AVENUE
MARGATE CITY, NEW JERSEY 08402
PHONE: (609) 822-1686
FAX: (609) 822-3399

February 17, 2010

Dear Parents:

As superintendent, the quality of education for our students is of the highest level of importance to me. It will continue to be my number one goal as we balance a budget that has serious challenges for next year. For the 2010-2011 school year, our district will be impacted by one of the largest budget challenges it has had to face in many years.

I'm sure that most of you either read, watched or heard the governor's address that was given last week. The governor's decision to reduce state aid will impact on all K-12 public schools throughout the state. Districts will be faced with having to examine all options to help them make up for the unexpected loss.

For Margate, the cut in state aid plus rising costs of our salaries, benefits and operating budget, will put us at a significant loss for next year's budget. This loss will be compounded due to: previous litigation cases reaching final agreement; contractual agreements with retirees; the decrease in taxes from the previous year; no increases in the tax levy over the past three years; and increases in tuition over the past two years for students attending ACHS.

One option for helping to offset some of the costs would be to obtain a 4% increase in our tax levy (approx. \$400,000). However, even if the tax levy was approved, we would still need significant funding to balance the budget for 2010-2011.

Over the next month, I plan to work closely with the board, district administration, county superintendent, MEA President, parents, community members, and city officials to develop a workable plan that will enable us to have a balanced budget. Some of the decisions that need to be made to balance the budget will not be easy. Quality for our students will continue to be the top priority in the development of the plan.

I welcome your comments, questions or concerns and ask for your continued support for the education of our students.

Thank you,

Dr. Theresa DeFranco

TD/kc